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ABSTRACT

Extracurricular activities are an important part of students' lives in small-town Montana. In 1994, the Montana state legislature cut its share of funding to public schools by 4 percent, raising concerns about what would be cut and whether extracurricular activities would be affected. A survey of 228 Montana school districts (47 percent of total) found that 88 had made no cuts, 89 had cut supplies and equipment, but only 17 had cut extracurricular activities. Activities most likely to be cut were basketball at the lower grades, cross-country, and track. Participation fees, fund raisers, booster clubs, and ticket sales provided extra revenue for some districts. The extent of school activities during the 5 years ended 1994-95 was examined for the 180 high schools that participated in competitions sanctioned by the Montana High School Association (MHSA). MHSA oversees 16 categories of competitive activities, including various sports for boys and girls and speech and drama. The availability of activities was somewhat a function of size and resources. The largest ("AA") schools all offered 13 of 16 categories of activities, while 78 percent of "A" schools offered at least 10 activities. Of the 99 smallest ("C") schools, 71 percent had consistently offered only 4 of the 16 MHSA possibilities. Class-B and Class-C schools frequently formed activity cooperatives to save on coaching and facility costs. Includes 15 data tables and 6 graphs. (SV)

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CREATIVITY VERSUS DOLLARS: How Rural Schools in One State Have Maintained or Improved Their Extra-Curricular Programs in the Face of Funding Cuts

Paper Presented at the 1995 Research Forum of the
National Rural Education Association

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Salt Lake City, Utah

by

Claudette Morton, Ed.D
Montana Rural Education Center
(406) 683-7121
e-mail: c_morton@wmc34b.wmc.edu

Western Montana College
of
The University of Montana
Dillon, Montana 59725

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CREATIVITY VERSUS DOLLARS:
How Rural Schools in One State Have Maintained or Improved Their Extra-Curricular Programs in the Face of Funding Cuts

by
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Introduction

This year's Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll "Of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools" points out what educators have known for some time: there is significant concern over the lack of financial support for public schools. In fact, this point is tied with lack of discipline as the top issues of this latest poll (Elam and Rose, 1995). Those concerned about public education in Montana are also well aware of the growing lack of financial support. In 1994, in a special session, the state legislature cut its share of funding to public schools by four percent. Last year, overall Montana school's budgets increased by only 1.3 percent and since the inflation rate was three percent, the schools lost ground again (Keenan, 1995). In fact, in the last five years general fund expenditures per student in the Class C, the smallest high schools in the state, had dropped by over $1000 (Morton, 1991 and 1995), and results of a survey of school funding showed that during this same period, 66 percent of Montana's school districts have decreased their general fund amount per student (Morton, 1995).

In an effort to deal with this lack of financial support, the Montana School Boards Association, the Montana Parent Teacher Student Association, the School Administrators of Montana, and the Montana Association of School Business Officials came together in the fall of 1994 to form PROJECT 95. Their purpose was to provide schools and the public with a better sense of how efficient the schools were, what programs were being cut due to lack of financial support and the good quality of education that the schools of Montana were still providing. The board of directors of PROJECT 95 hired the Montana Rural Education Center to conduct research for them in a variety of areas. First, they ask the Center to execute a survey regarding the impact of the loss of funds. One of the areas of concern on the survey was extra-curricular activities. While the survey yielded some valuable data, both quantitative and qualitative, in order to have more quantitative data with regard to changes in extra-curricular offerings for the school years 1990-91 through 1994-95 an analysis of activities offerings was also conducted.

One of the reasons that extra-curricular activities was chosen as an area to study was that it is such an important part of the student life in small town Montana. Armstrong found in a survey she conducted of small school districts in Illinois, that 67 percent of rural parents were "willing to pay extra charges for their children to participate in extracurricular activities" (1992). Also, many classroom teachers as well as coaches

recognize the important role that extra-curriculars often play in increasing self esteem and improving the chances for success of at-risk students (Dorrell, 1992; Gaspard & Burnett, 1991; and Peach, 1993).

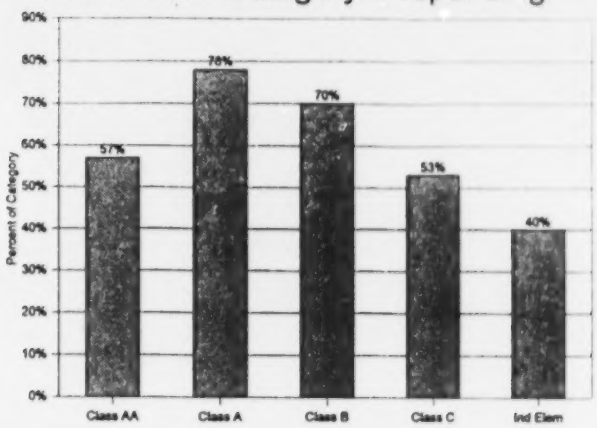
Methodology for the Survey

The first part of this study was a survey. The survey was created by the staff at the Montana Rural Education Center, after determining the general areas of interest with the board of PROJECT 95. In order to assure face validity, a draft survey was taken to the Montana conference on Educational Leadership in October of 1994 and was given to members of the audience of the PROJECT 95 clinic session. The audience was made up of school trustees and school administrators, the same kind of people who would be filling out the survey. The audience was not asked to complete the survey but rather to examine it and give the presenters information to improve it. The comments from this session were brought back, and the staff revised the instrument accordingly. To further guarantee validity, in early November, the survey was sent to six school district business managers, and they suggested further refinements. The survey was mailed to all 481 Montana school districts in mid-November. A self-addressed stamped envelop was included, and they were asked in the cover letter to return the completed survey by December 3, 1994. On December 12 all PROJECT 95 schools and all AA schools which had not returned the survey were phoned, and as a result additional surveys were returned by mail and fax. On December 16 the data was entered and run. Eight surveys came in later, and they were added to the results.

In all 228 surveys were completed, returned and used in the compilation of the data. This total rate of return was 47.4 percent. Rates of returns on the survey varied depending on the type of school districts and whether or not they were members of the project. Of the 102 member schools districts of PROJECT 95, 97 districts or 95 percent returned the survey. A breakdown by size shows that 57 percent of the largest school districts, the AA's, completed the survey, 14 of 18 or 78% of the A school districts completed the survey, 33 of the 47 or 70 percent of the Class B districts completed the survey, and 51 of the 97 or 53 percent of the Class C districts provided data. The other 75 surveys were from the Independent Elementary School Districts in the state. [See Figure One.] Reports for specific items may vary in numbers, because not all respondents answered all questions.

FIGURE ONE

Per Cent of Category Responding



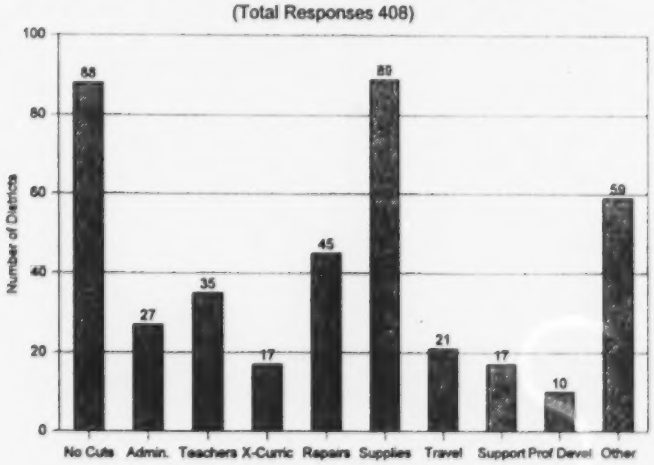
Results of the Survey

The survey dealt with a variety of issues, but for this study only those results dealing with extra-curricular activities will be examined. Districts were specifically asked if they had to make budget cuts due to the four percent reduction in public school funding by the Montana legislature during the 1994 special session. If they had, they were asked to list up to three areas in priority of most affected by the budget cuts. Eighty-eight responded that they made no cuts or left the answer blank, 89 said that they made cuts in supplies and equipment, which included textbooks and technology, 45 cut repair and maintenance, 35 reduced certified staff (teachers, counselors and librarians) 227 cut in administration, 21 cut travel, 17 cut extra-curriculars, 17 reduced support staff which included aides, 10 cut professional development and 59 listed a variety of other ares, but ones where only five or fewer schools listed an area. [See Figure Two.]

FIGURE TWO

AREAS OF CUTS IN SCHOOL BUDGETS

(Total Responses 408)



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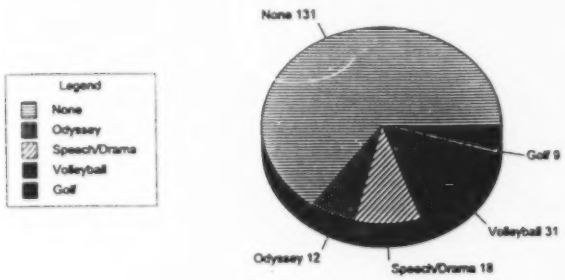
When asked if they had been able to add funds to any areas, no one responded that they had added any funds in extra-curricular areas.

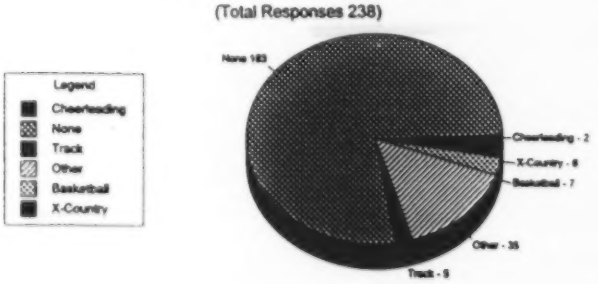
School districts were specifically asked if they had been able to add extra-curricular activities in the last five years. One-hundred thirty-one school districts said that they had added no activities in the last five years, 31 had added volley ball, 18 had added speech and/or drama, 12 had added Odyssey of the Mind, and nine had added golf. [See Figure Three.]

FIGURE THREE
EXTRA ACTIVITIES ADDED
(Total Responses 201)



Districts were also asked what extra-curricular programs they had deleted in the last five years. One-hundred eighty-three responded none, while seven had deleted some form of basketball, six had deleted cross-country, five had deleted track, two had deleted cheerleading, and 35 had deleted a variety of programs which did not fall into specific categories. [See Figure Four.]

FIGURE FOUR
PROGRAMS DELETED
(Total Responses 238)



The survey also sought to determine innovative ways that school districts were funding extra-curricular activities. One hundred thirty-five said that they had not done that or answered N.A., 23 school districts were using participant fees, 20 were using fund

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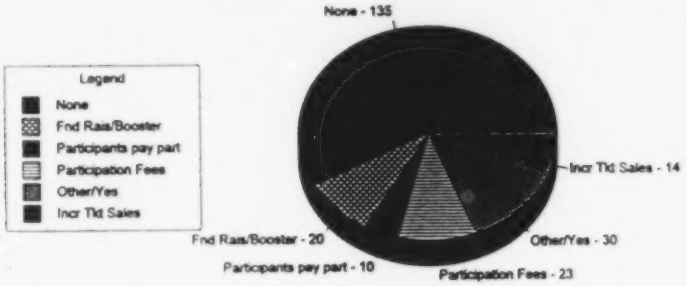
raisers or booster clubs, 14 had increased ticket sales, ten were asking the participants or their parents to pay for some meals or other costs of the activity, and 30 had other unspecified innovative ways to pay for extra-curricular activities. [See Figure Five.]

FIGURE FIVE

NEW WAYS FOR EXTRA FUNDING

(Total Responses 232)



Methodology of the Analysis of High School Extra-Curricular Activities Offerings

Because the board of PROJECT 95 and the Montana Rural Education Center did not feel that the results of the survey from the Montana schools told the complete story of extra-curricular activities, especially at the high school level, the Montana Rural Education Center undertook an analysis of the Montana High School Association Activities Offerings for the last five years. The data was taken from the Montana High School Association OFFICIAL HANDBOOK for the following school years: 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, and 1994-95. For economic sake in the analysis reference is made only to the first calendar year of the school year. Thus school year 1990-91 will be listed as 1990, etc.

There are 180 high schools in Montana which participate in Montana High School Association (MHSA) sanctioned competitive activities. These high schools are divided into four groups based on numbers in their student body. The AA's are the largest with student bodies exceeding 1,000, while the C's are the smallest, many with student bodies of 100 or fewer. There are 13 AA high schools, 23 A high schools, 45 B high schools and 99 C high schools. Because of population shifts some have moved, but generally they have been replaced with others.

In Montana high schools in the last five years, seven boys sports and seven girls sports as well as a co-educational program in speech and drama, were offered and used for this analysis. Montana schools also offered cross country and track, but listings of specific schools offering these were not available for this analysis from MHSA. The boys sports included in this work were: football, basketball, soccer, wrestling, swimming, golf and tennis. The girls sports included were: volleyball, basketball, softball, soccer,

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swimming, golf and tennis. (See Appendix A for a sample of the charts which were created to calculate the figures used in this analysis.)

Analysis by School Size

Class AA Schools

In the AA high schools, all 13 schools offered boys football, basketball, wrestling, swimming, golf and tennis all five years. Soccer was the one sport which grew in offering over this time period. In 1990 there were no schools offering soccer, in 1991 six schools offered soccer, in 1992 and 1993 seven schools offered soccer and in 1994 eight schools did. [See Table One.]

TABLE ONE

CLASS AA BOYS

	Football					Basketball					Soccer				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	0	6	7	8	8
sport not offered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	7	6	5	5
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Wrestling					Swimming					Golf				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
sport not offered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Tennis				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	13	13	13	13	13
sport not offered	0	0	0	0	0
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0

The 13 AA schools all offered girls volleyball, basketball, swimming, golf and tennis all five years. In 1990, 12 offered softball, and in the last four years all 13 did. Soccer was also a new offering for girls in this time period. Like the boys, in 1990, no AA school offered it to girls, in 1991 six schools did, and in 1992 through 1993 seven have. In 1994 that number grew to eight. [See Table Two.]

TABLE TWO

CLASS AA GIRLS

	Volleyball					Basketball					Soccer				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	0	6	7	8	8
sport not offered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	7	6	5	5
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Softball					Swimming					Golf				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	12	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
sport not offered	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Tennis				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	13	13	13	13	13
sport not offered	0	0	0	0	0
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0

In speech and drama, in 1990 all 13 AA schools offered the full program, but from 91 forward only nine schools offered both parts, with the other four offering speech only. [See Table Three.]

TABLE THREE

CLASS AA CO-ED

	Speech & Drama				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	13	9	9	9	9
sport not offered	0	0	0	0	0
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0
speech only	0	4	4	4	4

Class A Schools

There are 23 Class A high schools, and all schools offered boys football and basketball, and girls volleyball and basketball. Twenty-one offered boys wrestling all five years as well. In boys and girls soccer, no schools offered it in 1990 and 91, two offered it in 1992 and 1993, and three offered it in 1994. [See Tables Four and Five.]

TABLE FOUR

CLASS A BOYS

	Football					Basketball					Soccer				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	0	0	2	2	3
sport not offered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	23	21	21	20
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Wrestling					Swimming					Golf				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	21	21	21	21	21	4	3	4	5	5	20	19	22	22	22
sport not offered	2	2	2	2	2	19	19	19	18	18	3	4	1	1	1
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Tennis				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	10	12	13	12	12
sport not offered	13	11	10	11	11
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE FIVE

CLASS A GIRLS

	Volleyball					Basketball					Soccer				
sport offered	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport not offered	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	0	0	2	2	3
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	23	21	21	20
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Softball					Swimming					Golf				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	5	5	6	6	6	5	4	5	6	6	20	20	22	22	22
sport not offered	18	18	17	17	17	18	18	18	17	17	3	3	1	1	1
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Tennis				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	10	17	19	18	18
sport not offered	13	6	4	5	5
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0

In golf, 20 offered both boys and girls in 1990. In 1991, 19 offered boys and 20 offered girls, and in the last three years, 22 offered both boys and girls golf. [See Tables Four and Five.]

In swimming, in 1990, four offered it to boys and five to girls. In 1991 that changed to three to boys and four to girls. In 1992 it went back to four to boys and five to girls, and in the last two years it moved up to five schools offering boys swimming and six offering girls swimming. [See Tables Four and Five.]

In 1990 and 1991, five Class A high schools offered girls softball, and in the last three years six schools offered the sport. [See Table Five.]

In tennis, in 1990, 10 Class A high schools offered both boys and girls tennis, but in 1991, 12 offered it to boys and 17 offered the sport to girls. In 1992, 13 offered boys tennis and 18 offered girls tennis. In 1993, once again 12 offered boys tennis, but 18 offered girls tennis, and in 1994, 12 Class A high schools offered boys tennis while 18 offered girls tennis. [See Tables Four and Five.]

In co-ed speech and drama, in 1990, 15 Class A high schools offered both activities. In 1991, 13 offered both while five offered speech only. In 1992, 17 offered both and two offered speech only, and for the last two years, 19 have offered both and one has offered speech only. [See Table Six.]

TABLE SIX

CLASS A CO-ED

	Speech & Drama				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	15	13	17	19	19
sport not offered	8	5	4	3	3
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0
speech only *	0	5	2	1	1

Class B Schools

There are 45 Class B high schools, and all 45 offered boys and girls basketball. None of them offered soccer to either boys or girls. In 1990, none of them offered swimming to either boys or girls, but in the last four years, 1991 through 1994, one school has offered swimming to both boys and girls by being part of a sports co-operative. [See Tables Seven and Eight.]

The sports co-operative appeared in boys football and wrestling and in girls volleyball and softball as well. In boys football, in 1990 42 schools offered the sport while three did through a co-operative. In 1991, 40 schools offered boys football and five offered it through a co-operative. In 1992 and 1993, 39 schools offered boys football and six offered it through a co-operative. In 1994, 37 schools offered boys football and eight offered it through a co-operative. [See Table Seven.]

In wrestling, in 1990, 30 schools offered the sport and one offered it through a co-operative. In 1991, 32 schools offered wrestling to boys, but the co-operative for wrestling was discontinued. In 1992, 33 schools offered wrestling to boys and in 1993,

34 schools offered wrestling to boys. In 1994, that number dropped to 32 schools offering wrestling to boys. [See Table Seven.]

In boys golf the number of schools offering the sport has shifted between 23 and 24 in the last five years. In 1990, 23 schools offered boys golf. In 1991 and 92, 24 schools offered boys golf. In 1993, that number again dropped back to 23 schools and in 1994, the number went back up to 24 Class B high schools offering boys golf. [See Table Seven.]

In Class B schools eight offered boys tennis in 1990. In 1991, seven did. In 1992, the number fell to five offering the sport, and in 1993, the number moved down to four offering boys tennis. This year, 1994, five schools again offered boys tennis. [See Table Seven.]

TABLE SEVEN

CLASS B BOYS

Football

	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	42	40	39	39	37
sport not offered	0	0	0	0	0
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0
sport cooperative	3	5	6	6	8

Basketball

	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	45	45	45	45	45
sport not offered	0	0	0	0	0
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0
sport cooperative	0	0	0	0	0

Soccer

	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	0	0	0	0	0
sport not offered	45	45	45	45	45
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0
sport cooperative	0	0	0	0	0

Wrestling

	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	30	32	33	34	32
sport not offered	14	13	12	11	11
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	2
sport cooperative	1	0	0	0	0

Swimming

	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	0	0	0	0	0
sport not offered	45	44	44	44	44
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0
sport cooperative	0	1	1	1	1

Golf

	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	23	24	24	23	24
sport not offered	22	21	20	21	21
sport deleted	0	0	1	1	0
sport cooperative	0	0	0	0	0

Tennis

	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	8	7	5	4	5
sport not offered	37	35	40	40	40
sport deleted	0	3	0	1	0
sport cooperative	0	0	0	0	0

In Class B girls sports, in 1990, 43 schools offered volleyball and two did through a co-operative. In 1991, 42 high schools offered girls volleyball and three did through a co-operative. In 1992 and 1993, 41 Class B schools offered girls volleyball, and four offered the sport through a co-operative. In 1994, 40 schools offered girls volleyball, and five offered it through a co-operative. [See Table Eight.]

At the Class B level, softball is slowly catching on as a girls sport. In 1990, only two high schools offered girls softball, but in 1991, that number doubled to four. In 1993, five Class B high schools offered girls softball, and in the last two years of the analysis, seven high schools have offered the sport. [See Table Eight.]

Girls golf also seems to be growing at the Class B level. In 1990, 26 schools offered the sport, and in 1991, 28 offered it. From 1992 through 1994, 29 Class B high schools have offered girls golf. [See Table Eight.]

Girls tennis, on the other hand, has experienced a small decline at the Class B level. In 1990, 23 schools offered girls tennis, and in 1991, 20 schools offered girls tennis. The following two years the number of schools offering girls tennis at the Class B level fell to 19. However, in 1994 the number increased to 21 high schools offering girls tennis. [See Table Eight.]

TABLE EIGHT

CLASS B GIRLS

	Volleyball					Basketball					Soccer				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	43	42	41	41	40	45	45	45	45	45	0	0	0	0	0
sport not offered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	45	45	45	45
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sport cooperative	2	3	4	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Softball					Swimming					Golf				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	2	4	5	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	26	28	29	29	29
sport not offered	43	41	40	38	38	45	44	44	44	44	19	17	16	16	16
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sport cooperative	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

	Tennis				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	23	20	19	19	21
sport not offered	22	21	25	26	24
sport deleted	0	4	1	0	0
sport cooperative	0	0	0	0	0

In co-ed speech and drama, in 1990, 29 schools offered both parts, however in 1991, 26 schools offered both, and six schools offered speech only. In 1992, 26 schools again offered both, but only 5 offered speech alone. For the last two years, 29 schools have offered both speech and drama, while four schools have offered speech only. [See Table Nine.]

TABLE NINE

CLASS B CO-ED

	Speech & Drama				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	29	26	26	29	29
sport not offered	16	13	13	12	12
sport deleted	0	0	1	0	0
speech only		6	5	4	4

Class C

There are 99 Class C high schools which offer Montana High School Association Activities. Because of their small numbers of students from which to draw, the Class C high schools utilized the sports co-operative concept even more than do the Class B high schools. None of the Class C high schools offered either boys or girls soccer or swimming during the five year period of the analysis.

In 1990 through 1992, all 99 schools offered boys basketball, but for the last two years 97 schools have offered boys basketball, and two have done so through a co-operative. [See Table Ten.]

In football, in 1990, 36 offered boys the sport, and 23 have done so through a co-operative. In 1991, 38 offered boys football, and 28 through a co-operative. In 1992, 35 offered boys football, and 34 through a co-operative. In 1993, 37 schools offered boys football, and 31 through a co-operative. In 1994, 37 schools again offered boys football, but 33 also offered it through a co-operative. [See Table Ten.]

In boys wrestling, in 1990 and 1991, seven Class C high schools offered it, and from 1992 through this year, 1994, eight schools have offered it. [See Table Ten.]

Though a small number of schools offer the program, boys golf seems to have grown and stabilized. In 1990 only two schools offered boys golf, but from 1991 through this year six schools offered boys golf, and in the last three years, two additional schools offered the sport through a co-operative. [See Table Ten.]

Boys tennis has not fared as well. In 1990, only three Class C high schools offered boys tennis, and from 1991 through 1994, that number has dropped to two. [See Table Ten.]

TABLE TEN

CLASS C BOYS

	Football					Basketball					Soccer				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	36	38	35	37	37	99	99	99	97	97	0	0	0	0	0
sport not offered	40	33	30	28	27	0	0	0	0	0	99	99	99	99	99
sport deleted	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sport ofered cooperative	23	28	34	31	33	0	0	0	2	2		0	0	0	0

	Wrestling					Swimming					Golf				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	7	7	8	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	6	6	6
sport not offered	92	91	91	90	91	99	99	99	99	99	97	93	91	91	91
sport deleted	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sport ofered cooperative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2

	Tennis				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	3	2	1	1	1
sport not offered	96	96	96	96	96
sport deleted	0	1	1	1	1
sport ofered cooperative	0	0	0	0	0

In girls sports at the Class C level, only basketball was offered in every high school, and it has been for the last five years. On the other hand, no school at this level offered girls soccer or swimming. [See Table Eleven.]

In girls volleyball, in 1990, 61 high schools offered the sport and seven additional schools offered it through a co-operative. In 1991, 59 high schools offered girls volleyball and nine through co-operatives. In 1992, 59 high schools again offered girls volleyball, but this same year 14 schools offered it through co-operatives. In 1993, 62 high schools offered girls volleyball and ten schools offered it through co-operatives. This year, 1994, 59 schools offered girls volleyball and 14 offered it through co-operatives. [See Table Eleven.]

Girls softball is a different story at the Class C level. No schools offered it in 1990 or 1991, two schools offered it in 1992, and then no schools have offered it since. [See Table Eleven.]

Girls golf at the Class C level seems to be on the rise. In 1990, three schools offered the sport. In 1991, nine schools offered it. In 1992, ten schools offered girls golf, and two offered it through a co-operative. In 1993, 11 schools offered girls golf, and two through a co-operative. In 1994, 10 schools offered girls golf, and two offered it through a co-operative. [See Table Eleven.]

Girls tennis, on the other hand has not fared as well. In 1990 and 1991, seven schools offered girls tennis. In 1992, five schools offered it. The last two years six schools offered the sport. [See Table Eleven.]

TABLE ELEVEN

CLASS C GIRLS

	Volleyball					Basketball					Soccer				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	61	59	59	62	59	99	99	99	97	97	0	0	0	0	0
sport not offered	31	28	26	25	25	0	0	0	0	0	99	99	99	99	99
sport deleted	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sport offered cooperative	7	9	14	10	14	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0

	Softball					Swimming					Golf				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	10	11	10
sport not offered	99	99	97	97	99	99	99	99	99	99	96	90	87	86	87
sport deleted	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sport offered cooperative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2

	Tennis				
	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	7	7	5	6	6
sport not offered	92	92	92	91	91
sport deleted	0	0	2	2	2
sport offered cooperative	0	0	0	0	0

At this level co-educational speech and drama have also utilized activity co-operatives. In 1990, 22 schools offered both speech and drama, and five more offered both through a co-operative. In 1991, 13 schools offered speech and drama, but seven offered both through a co-operative and seven schools offered speech only. In 1992, 15 Class C schools offered both speech and drama, eight offered both through a co-operative and seven offered speech only. In 1993, 22 schools offered both, seven offered both through a co-operative and four offered speech only. In 1994, 23 schools offered both speech and drama, six offered both through a co-operative and again, four offered speech only. [See Table Twelve.]

TABLE TWELVE

CLASS C CO-ED

Speech & Drama

	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
sport offered	22	13	15	22	23
sport not offered	72	64	69	66	66
sport deleted	0	7	0	0	0
sport offered co-op	5	8	8	7	6
speech only	0	7	7	4	4

Results of the Analysis

In Montana, at least in the last five years, basketball, both boys and girls is the key activity. Every school registered with the Montana High School Association offered boys and girls basketball, every year for the last five years. In two cases, at the Class C level, two high schools combined into a sports co-operative to provide this offering to the boys.

The availability of activity offerings seems to be somewhat a function of size and resources. The large AA high schools have all offered thirteen of the sixteen activities analyzed in this report for the last five years. Those activities offered every year by all AA high schools include: boys football, boys wrestling, girls volleyball, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls tennis, boys and girls golf, boys and girls swimming and competitive speech. In 1990, twelve of the thirteen AA high schools offered softball, but from the following year forward they all have, bringing the number of activities they have all offered for the last four years to twelve. In this same time period over half have added girls and boys soccer. Where there has been a decline in any activity offering, it has been the drop of four AA high schools of their competitive drama program.

At the next size high schools in Montana, the A's, all 23 have consistently offered boys football, girls volleyball and boys and girls basketball over the last five years. In addition, 91% of these schools have offered boys wrestling all five years and for two years about one-fifth and then for the last three years about one-fourth of the Class A high schools have offered girls softball.

With regard to the other activities the numbers vary more. Boys tennis, while starting out with the same 52% offering in 1990, moved up to a high of 57% offering the sport in 1992 and has seemed to stabilize at 52% of the schools offering it the last two years. Girls tennis while starting at the same 44% at the boys in 1990 at the Class A level has moved much higher. In 1992, 83% of the Class A schools were offering girls tennis, but the number dropped to 74% in 1993, and then raised to 78% for 1994. Golf at the Class A level has been much more stable, beginning with 87% of the high schools offering both boys and girls golf in 1990, and then after a small drop in the boys offering, moving to 96% of the schools offering both boys and girls golf in the last three years.

Boys and girls swimming has also been fairly stable though not near as high an offering level as golf. In 1990, 17% of the Class A high schools offered boys swimming and 22% offered girls swimming. After some dips in both offerings, for the last two years it has been at 22% for Class A high schools offering boys swimming and 26% offering girls swimming. Soccer has also grown as an offering at this level. In the first two years of the analysis, no Class A school offered the sport, then for two years only two high schools or 9% of the Class A's offered the sport to both sexes and for the last two years three or 13% have. Finally, competitive speech and drama has also grown at this level from 65% of the Class A high schools offering both speech and drama in 1990 to 83% offering both programs this year. There was a dip in the number offering both in 1991, when several schools went to speech only, however now there are only 4% offering speech only.

At the current time over 90% of the Class A high schools offer their students seven of the MHSA activities analyzed, and that number goes up to ten of the sixteen activities possible when the percentage drops to 78. In other words 78% of the Class A high schools offer their student 10 MHSA activities.

At the Class B level, the high schools have become more innovative and have begun to use activity cooperatives to offer their students opportunities to participate in a variety of activities, while saving on coaching and in some cases facilities costs. At this level, activity co-operatives were used in boys football, boys wrestling, girls, volleyball, girls softball, and boys and girls swimming. There are 45 Class B high schools and all of them, some by using the co-operatives, have been able to offer boys and girls basketball and boys football for the last five years. For the last four years all 45 have also offered girls volleyball as well.

Boys wrestling has been a fairly high offering and fairly stable. In 1990, 69% of the Class B schools were offering wrestling. That number increased to a high of 76% in 1993, but is currently at 71%. Golf for both boys and girls at this level seems to be on an increase. For the boys 51% of the Class B schools offered the sport in 1990 and the number has shifted back and forth between that low and a high of 53% in these five years ending at the 53% in 1994. For the girls the number has climbed from a 58% in 1990 to 64% this year.

Another activity which has involved more that fifty percent of the Class B high schools has been competitive speech and drama. In 1990, 64% of these schools participated in both speech and drama. The next two years the percentage of Class B high schools participating in both speech and drama dropped to 58%, but the last three years that number seems to have stabilized back to the 64%. Another nine percent offer competitive speech only to their students.

At this point it might be good to point out that over 50% of the Class B high schools offered nine of the sixteen MHSA activities in this analysis. Of the other seven activities, Class B high schools find it difficult to offer them. Tennis seems to be easier to offer for girls at this level than for boys, though there has been a drop in the percentage of Class B schools offering the sport from 51% in 1990 to a drop of 42% in 1992 and 1993 to an increase to 47% in 1994. For boys the drop has been from 18% in 1990 to 11% in 1994.

At this level girls softball is really a minor sport though it has had significant growth in the last five years. In 1990, only 4% of the Class B high schools were offering the sport, while in 1994, 16% offered it. Over the last four years, through the use of an activity co-operative, one Class B school has been able to offer its students boys and girls swimming. No Class B school offered boys or girls soccer anytime during this period.

Though making up over half of the member schools of MHSA the 99 Class C high schools because of their small student numbers and limited resources offer many fewer of the activities. Like their larger cousins the Class B high schools, the Class C high schools utilize the activity co-operatives. Even so, the only activities all 99 Class C high schools have consistently offered over the last five years are boys and girls basketball, and even here two schools have had to resort to a co-operative to offer the sport to boys. Thanks also to the co-operatives, boys football was on the rise at this level. In 1990, 54% of Class C high schools offered the sport, while in 1994, 71% offered it. Also, girls volleyball, while strong, has shown some increase again utilizing the co-operative. In 1990, 69% of the Class C high schools offered girls volleyball and that has increased to 74% for the last two years. From this it can be seen that 71% of the Class C high schools are offering four competitive MHSA activities to their students.

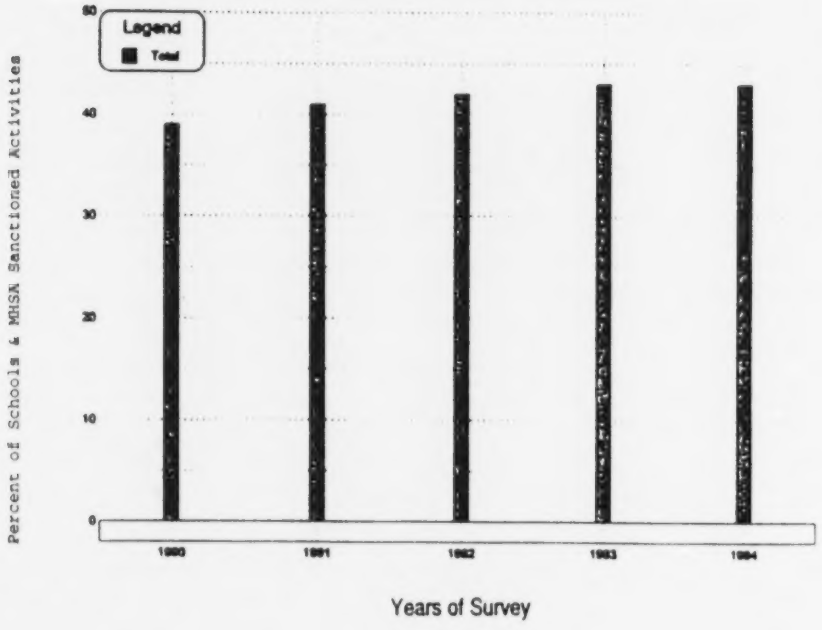
On the other hand, no Class C high school offered boys or girls soccer, or boys or girls swimming in the last five years. Two schools tried one year to offer girls softball, but the last two years, no class C high school has offered that sport.

The other seven competitive MHSA sanctioned activities are slowly increasing or seem to be relatively stable. However, the percentage of Class C school participating is less than 50% in most cases. In fact, less than 10% of the high schools at this level offered boys wrestling, boys golf, competitive speech only, or girls and boys tennis. On the other hand, girls tennis was up to 12% in offerings, and competitive speech and drama was up to 29%, in 1994, after a low of 21% in 1991.

As far as the concern that because of tight budgets, high schools are having to cut extra-curricular programs, this analysis does not support that contention. In fact, in the last five years overall taking into account the number of high schools and the number of competitive activities which MHSA sanctions, there has been a slight increase from 1990 to 1993 and then the percentage stayed the same for 1994. [See Figure Six.]

FIGURE SIX

Composite of Schools & Activities



One place that schools have become more frugal in their use of resources for MHSA competitive activities has shown up in the growth of activity co-operatives over the last five years at the B and C levels. [See Tables Thirteen and Fourteen.] Whether or not this has been due to fewer resources is not possible to determine in this analysis. It does certainly indicate an effective use of limited resources to provide students more opportunities to participate in high school extra-curricular activities.

TABLE THIRTEEN

CLASS B CO-OPS

Sport	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Swimming		1	1	1	1
Football	3	5	6	6	8
Wrestling	1	0	0	0	0
Volleyball	2	3	4	4	5
TOTAL	6	9	11	11	14

TABLE FOURTEEN

CLASS C CO-OPS

Sport	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Boys Basketball				2	2
Football	23	28	34	31	33
Boys Golf			2	2	2
Girls Volleyball	7	9	14	10	14
Girls Golf			2	2	2
Speech & Drama	5	7	8	7	6
TOTAL	35	44	60	54	59

This is consistent with Nachtigal and Parker's research in which they discuss the concept of "clustering" (1990). In the activity cooperative, two or more schools come together to hire a coach for a single activity, share the costs in fielding a team and the school with the best facilities for the activity is often where practices occur.

It must be remembered that because no data were available, this analysis did not take into account, cross-country or track in athletics or such other extra-curricular activities as music, play production, the school newspaper or the annual, nor does it take into account intermurals or extra-curricular programs at the middle school or elementary levels.

Conclusions

From the survey, it appeared that most school districts in Montana were able to maintain their extra-curricular programs in the face of budget cuts. Of the 228 districts responding to the survey, 131 or 58 percent dud not added any activities in the last five years. The good news was that 183 or 80 percent did not had to decrease their extra-curricular program offerings. According to the survey, when offerings were added they were most often in the areas of volleyball, speech and/or drama, and golf. When they were cut, basketball at the lower grade levels, x-country, and track were the programs most likely to be cut.

Instead of cutting extra-curricular programs in the face of tighter school budgets, according to the survey, 97 districts in Montana have come up with innovative ways to fund extra-curricular activities. The most popular new sources of revenue were participation fees, followed by fund raisers and booster clubs, and then followed by increased ticket sales and gate receipts. The most reliable of all sources of funding for extra-curricular activities appears to be a variety of fund raisers. The analysis of the last five years of Montana High School Association (MHSA) sanctioned extra-curriculars also showed that even in the face of tighter school budgets, Montana high schools actually had a slight increase in number of competitive activities from 1990 to 1993 and for the last two years the amount of offerings stayed the same. [See Figure Six.]

According to the analysis of extra-curricular offerings in Montana in the last five years, the availability of activity offerings seems to be somewhat a function of size and resources. The large AA high schools have all offered thirteen of the sixteen activities analyzed in this report over the last five years. In addition, over half of these largest of high schools in the state have added soccer over the last five years. Four schools in this category dropped their competitive drama programs.

At the next size high school in Montana, the A's, all 23 have consistently offered four activities over the last five years, and 90 percent of these high schools offer their students seven of the fourteen MHSA activities analyzed. Seventy-eight percent of the Class A high schools offered their students ten MHSA activities.

At the Class B level, the high schools have become more innovative and have begun to use activity cooperatives to offer their students opportunities to participate in a variety of activities, while saving on coaching and, in some cases, facilities costs. Over 50 percent of the Class B high schools offered nine of the sixteen MHSA activities in this analysis. Of the other seven activities, Class B high schools found it difficult to offer them. Only one Class B school has been able to offer its students swimming, and no school at this level has offered its students soccer.

Though making up over half of the member schools of MHSA, the 99 Class C high schools, because of their small student numbers and limited resources, offered many

fewer of the activities. Like their larger cousins, the Class B high schools, the Class C high schools have utilized the activity co-operatives. Still, only four of the sixteen MHSA possibilities are consistently offered by 71 percent of the Class C high schools to their students.

While the larger the school the more activities it offers holds true with these MHSA programs, it must be remembered that because of the number of students in the AA high schools, a student may actually have more opportunity for competing in the smaller schools, but the student will have less of an array of programs from which to choose.

What is clear as a result of this survey and analysis, is that in the last five years the high schools in Montana have become more creative in their support of extra-curricular activities in the face of tighter school budgets. While they have not been able to put any new state money in this area, some schools have found some additional financial support by tapping other sources of revenue such as participation fees, fund raising, and increased ticket sales. For the Class B and Class C high schools, the truly rural ones, they have been the real innovators. They have found another way to provide the programs by creating and utilizing the extra-curricular activity co-operatives. Through the utilization of these co-operatives, the schools have been able to maintain and, in some cases, actually add activities for their students at a time when they have had little or no increases in their budgets. [See Tales Fourteen and Fifteen.] The formation and utilization of the activity co-operatives certainly indicates an effective use of limited resources to provide students more opportunities to participate in high school extra-curricular activities.

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APPENDIX A

SAMPLE

Class B Boys

	Football					Basketball				
Schools	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95
Arlee	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Baker	c	c	c	c	c	x	x	x	x	x
Bigfork	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Broadwater (Townsend)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cascade (went to C 1992-93)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Chinook	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Circle (went to C 1993-94)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Choteau	x	x	x	x	c	x	x	x	x	x
Columbus	x	c	c	c	c	x	x	x	x	x
Conrad	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Corvallis	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cut Bank	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Darby	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Fairfield	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Fairview	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Florence-Carlton	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Forsyth	c	c	c	c	c	x	x	x	x	x
Fort Benton	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Frenchtown	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Glasgow (see A schools)										
Harlem	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Huntley Project (Worden)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Jefferson (Boulder)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Lincoln (Eureka)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Lodge Grass	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Loyola Sacred Hrt (Msla)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Malta	x	x	c	c	c	x	x	x	x	x
Manhattan	c	c	c	c	c	x	x	x	x	x
Plains	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Plentywood	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Poplar	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Powder River (Broadus)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Powell (Deer Lodge)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Red Lodge	x	c	c	c	c	x	x	x	x	x
Roundup	x	x	x	x	c	x	x	x	x	x
St. Ignatius	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
St. Labre Indian Catholic	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Shelby	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Shepherd	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Simms	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sweetgrass (Big Timber)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Thompson Falls	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Three Forks	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Troy	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Whitehall	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wolf Point	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

sport offered	42	40	39	39	37	45	45	45	45	45
sport not offered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sport deleted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sport cooperative	3	5	6	6	8	0	0	0	0	0